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NO SEPARATE LAW TO CHECK VIOLENCE AGAINST DOCTORS

The Centre has decided not to go ahead with a legislation to protect healthcare professionals from physical violence

BILL WITHDRAWN AFTER CONSULTATIONS

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Union health minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said a draft of the Healthcare Services Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2019 was circulated for consultations. However, the government decided not to enact a separate law to protect healthcare professionals and institutions

EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT TO PROTECT DOCS

- The minister said the matter was further discussed with all stakeholders and an ordinance namely The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on April 22, 2020
- Later, the govt passed the Act on September 28, 2020 under which violence against doctors are cognizable and non-bailable offences

3 months

JAIL TERM AND FINE OF ₹50,000-2,00,000 FOR OFFENDERS UNDER EPIDEMIC ACT 2020

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

JDS alleges corruption in Union Min's office, Joshi refutes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OPPOSITION Janata Dal (Secular) on Tuesday alleged that a person working in Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi's office was involved in corruption and demanded a high-level probe into it. Joshi has rubbished it as "wild allegations and heights of misleading the public."

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, JDS MLC SL Bhoje Gowda alleged that a person working in the minister's office was involved in corruption in recommending a person's name for membership in the National Medical Council and appointment in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Former chief minister Kumaraswamy was also present during the press conference.

Gowda alleged that Rs 2.5 crore was transferred to a particular bank account twice and there is a need for a high-level probe to know what was the connection between money transfers, the recommendation letter, and who got the money. A copy of a bank statement and a letter with the name masked were released to the media. Gowda claimed they have several documents related to alleged irregularities that will be released soon.

Joshi took to Twitter to rubbish the allegations. "This type of wild and baseless allegations will be dealt with seriously. I will contemplate filing a defamation case for tarnishing my name," he stated. "First of all, this letter is marked to a doctor, and I am certainly not a doctor. There is no such employee working in my office. If you are so confident, why have you blurred the name and content of this letter," he stated while tagging the letter that was released by the JDS leader. Joshi also tagged the original copy of the letter that was addressed by then Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to Dr BD Pandey, Ex-Municipal Councillor, New Delhi, in which the minister was acknowledging that he received the curriculum vitae of a doctor who was being recommended for appointment as member in the National Medical Commission. However, the original letter has no mention of Joshi or any staff of his office.

> **First of all, the letter is marked to a doctor, and I am certainly not a doctor. There is no such employee working in my office. If you are so confident, why have you blurred the name and content of the letter**
>
> Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs

Senior BJP leader and MLC Chaluvadi Narayanswamy said the JDS leaders are targeting Joshi after he criticised the party's Pancharatna Yatra. "This shows immaturity of the JDS leaders," he said. **MORE ON: P4**

Rahul Gandhi displays a poster showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi sitting with billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani in what looks like a chartered plane | PTI

Special SC bench to hear Bilkis Bano's plea

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to constitute a special bench to hear the pleas challenging the Gujarat government's order allowing premature release of 11 convicts sentenced to life in the Bilkis Bano case. During the 2002 Gujarat riots, Bano, who was five months pregnant, was gang-raped and seven members of her family killed.

Urging the bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud to list the plea, advocate Shobha Gupta said Justice Ajay Rastogi was continuously sitting in a combination of himself and Justice Bela Trivedi, who had earlier recused herself from hearing the matter.

The bench, also comprising judges P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, assured Bano that the new bench will be formed at the earliest.

The top court had earlier clarified that objections pertaining to locus of pleas filed by third party petitioners by one of the convicts Radhey Shyam and the Gujarat government did not arise anymore. The court also clarified that it would take up Bilkis's plea as lead matter. "After victim's plea comes, the issue of locus goes... Come on merits. In these cases no technicality has to follow," Justice Rastogi had remarked while posting the pleas for February.

EXPRESS READ

Gowri sworn in Madras HC addl judge

New Delhi/Chennai: Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri was on Tuesday sworn in as an additional judge of the Madras High Court amid protests outside the court and minutes before the Supreme Court dismissed two pleas against her appointment. **P5**

SC dismisses Rana Ayyub's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed journalist Rana Ayyub's plea challenging the summons by a Ghaziabad court in a money-laundering case. She had questioned the court's jurisdiction saying only the special court in Maharashtra could have taken cognisance of the ED complaint as the alleged offence took place in that state.

With you, dear: Dad holds hand of dead daughter

Mesut Hancer in an orange jacket sitting on a pile of rubble, holds the hand of his dead daughter Irmak, 15, who lies on a mattress, crushed by a huge concrete block, in Kahramanmaras, close to the quake epicentre in Turkiye AFP

RESCUE RACE ON, TOLL 7,100

YESHI SELI & MAYANK SINGH
@ New Delhi

WITH the toll crossing 7,100 a day after a 7.8 pre-dawn earthquake shook up Turkiye and Syria, Turkiye President Recip Tayyip Erdogan declared a state of emergency for three months in 10 of the worst-hit provinces in his country. Amid temperatures below freezing point and over 200 aftershocks, rescuers raced against time as nearly 6,000 buildings collapsed in Turkiye alone.

Not all buildings have been accessed by the rescuers yet. In the Hatay province in Turkyie where 1,500 buildings were destroyed, rescue effort was yet to begin. But in areas where teams worked, occasional cheers broke out through the night as survivors were brought out of the rubble. There were also reports of people stuck in the rubble sending videos and voice messages requesting urgent assistance and rescue. So far, over 8,000 people have been pulled from the debris in Turkiye.

Amid a global scramble to rush humanitarian support, India on Tuesday sent five aircraft full of relief and rescue equipment, which includes NDRF search and rescue teams, medical equipment for creating a 30-bed makeshift hospital, drilling machines and dog squads.

Out of the five IAF C17 aircraft, four have been sent to Turkiye and one to Syria. "PM Modi gave immediate instructions to build a crisis centre and all relevant Indian authorities had a meeting. This is an example of good friendship and we really appreciate it. We are in touch with the Indian Embassy in Ankara along with Indian authorities in Delhi," Turkiye envoy Firat Sunel said. "We really appreciated the Indian heart," Syrian envoy Bassam Seifeddin Alkhatib said. **MIRACLE BABY: P12**

Indian field hospital

4 IAF C17 aircraft loads of Indian relief and rescue personnel sent to Turkyie and one to Syria

Field hospital sent to Turkiye to establish a 30-bed medical facility. 45-member medical team accompanying it. It has X-ray unit, ventilators, OT and other equipment

Rahul questions Adani-Modi link

Accuses the BJP govt of tweaking rules to help the conglomerate win mega projects

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

FRESH from his five month-long cross-country march, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the Narendra Modi government and its alleged links with the Adani group, which is facing allegations of stock manipulation and fraud.

Rahul's all-out offensive against the government came on a day when Opposition parties decided to end the three-day logjam in Parliament and take part in the motion of thanks to the President's address.

The Wayanad MP alleged that the Modi government has been favouring the Adani group since it came to power in 2014. He also accused the Centre of changing rules to help Adani acquire airports.

"There was a rule that only a company or person with experience in airports be given the responsibility of developing airports. But, the government changed the rules for the Adani group and six airports were handed over to him. Adani now dominates several sectors such as ports, airports, cement, media and defence," he added.

> **In 2014, Adani's position was 609 on the list of the world's richest. Now he is in the second place. It is sheer magic**
>
> Rahul Gandhi

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha had not transacted any business till this debate in the ongoing Budget session as the Opposition stuck to its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee or Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations against Adani.

Rahul Gandhi's fiery speech drew strong protests from BJP ministers and MPs, who asked the Congress scion to substantiate his 'wild allegations' with proof.

The former Congress president, then, displayed a photograph of Modi and Adani in an aircraft together, wondering how many trips the duo must have taken together.

"Modi goes to Australia and the next day SBI gives a $1 billion loan to Adani. He goes to Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Power Development Board signs a 25-year contract with Adani," he alleged, demanding answers to his questions from the PM in his speech on Wednesday.

In his 40-minute-long speech in the Lok Sabha, Rahul also sought to know how much money Adani has given to the BJP in the past 20 years.

HC sends 'arrogant' advocate to jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has sent an advocate to judicial custody for a week on charges of making baseless allegations against four sitting judges.

A division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagi passed the order on February 2, 2023, in criminal contempt proceedings initiated against the advocate KS Anil by the High Court in 2019.

"We asked the accused whether he requires some time to make oral submissions or to file written submissions. However, he avoided the query of the court and started behaving arrogantly.... In spite of our attempts to hear him patiently, the accused started making gestures in the court", the court said.

"Making allegations against the judges of this court clearly shows that the accused has no regard for the judicial system. As a practising advocate, the consistent behaviour of the accused on earlier occasions too, besides making wild allegations against the judicial system and the judicial officers in particular, indicates that he is trying to demean the institution and is lowering the image of the judicial system in public eye," the court said. **P5**

EXPRESS INTAKE

Bommai soldiers on with packed schedule | P4

Madamma gets electricity, but continues fight | P4

DKS wants Cauvery stopped | P5

ALL IN THE NAME

Now, hear it from bugs, 'Mogambo khush hua!'

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

MOGAMBO, Ramu Kaka. These on-screen names of Bollywood legends Amrish Puri and AK Hangal are now being given to bugs by researchers in Gadag. This new nomenclature method is trending and students and researchers have welcomed the initiative.

While Apeflypupa2 has been named 'Mogambo', the iconic role played by Amrish Puri in the 1987 movie 'Mr India', Halyomorpha Halys has been named Ramu Kaka, role played by veteran actor AK Hangal in many movies.

'Mogambo' named after Amrish Puri and 'Ramu Kaka' after AK Hangal

Researchers say the move has twin-purpose. One, to pay tribute to the celebrities and second, to create interest in research students by making the study of bugs easier for identification.

Researchers Sangamesh Kadagad and Manjunath Nayak said, "We have been naming the bugs to help junior researchers easily identify them. We first tell them scientific names and then select names of legends. Now, students are easily remembering the names of the specimen. We have also named some bugs after famous politicians and cricketers based on their looks and morphology, but are yet to finalise them". **P5**

> **We have been naming the bugs to help junior researchers easily identify them. We first tell them scientific names and then select names of legends**
>
> Sangamesh Kadagad and Manjunath Nayak, researchers